

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-66 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-17 having been canceled, and Claims 18-66 having been newly added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 03-38565U (hereinafter “JP ‘565”); Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘565; Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘565 in view of JP 10-2693 (hereinafter JP ‘693); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘565 in view of EP 0789213 (hereinafter “EP ‘213”). However, Claims 11-14 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 11-14 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 18-66 have been newly added herein: Claims 18, 30, 42 and 54 including the subject matter recited in Claims 11-14, respectively; Claims 19, 31, 43 and 55 depending from Claims 18, 30, 42 and 54, respectively; Claims 20-29, 32-41, 44-53 and 56-65 substantially corresponding to Claims 2-9 and 15-16 and depending from one of Claims 18, 30, 42 and 54; and Claim 66 substantially corresponding to Claim 17. These claims are believed to find support in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed, and no new matter is believed to be added thereby. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 1-17 be canceled without prejudice.

In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matters and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language and expedite the prosecution of this application. An early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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